

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 241405Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8512
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: RENEWED CSU TALK OF FOURTH PARTY OPTION

REF: BONN 8774

1. IN RECENT WEEKS THE STRAUSS PEOPLE IN THE CUS HAVE BEGUN ONCE AGAIN TO SPEAK PUBLICLY OF FOURTH PARTY OPTION.
 2. FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF CDU/CSU "FRAKTION" ZIMMERMANN HAS MENTIONED FOURTH PARTY TWICE, FIRST AT MUNICH PRESS CLUB MAY 6 AND SECOND IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LATEST ISSUE OF "SPIEGEL." BAVARIAN LAND CHAIRMAN OF JUNGE UNION WIESHEU TALKED ABOUT FOURTH PARTY ON OCCASION OF JUNGE UNION'S LAND CONVENTION IN ERLANGEN MAY 13-14. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HERE MAY 23, STRAUSS SAID THAT "C" PARTIES SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RULE OUT ANY PRACTICAL MEANS OF WINNING NEXT BUNDESTAG
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ELECTIONS.

3. IN THEIR LATEST STATEMENTS, STRAUSS AND HIS LIEUTENANTS HAVE INDICATED THAT FOURTH PARTY CANNOT REPEAT NOT BE ESTABLISHED AGAINST WISHES OF CDU. AT SAME TIME, THEY HAVE EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT A CAREFULLY LIMITED FOURTH PARTY EFFORT WOULD ENHANCE "C" PARTIES' CHANCES OF WINNING

MAJORITY IN BUNDESTAG.

4. IMMEDIATE GOAL OF THESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT FOURTH PARTY SEEMS TO BE TO URGE CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL TO PERMIT JOINT STRATEGY COMMISSION TO BEGIN ITS WORK ASAP. STRAUSS AND CSU ARE, IN IEFFECT, TELLING KOHL THAT BEST WAY OF REVENTING CSU FROM AGAIN CONSIDERING A KREUTH-LIKE MANEUVER IS TO DISCUSS "C" PARTY STRATEGY, INCLUDING FOURTH PARTY OPTION, IN STRATEGY COMMISSION.

5. WE EXPECT THAT ONCE STRATEGY COMMISION IS IN OPERATION, STRAUSS AND OTHER CSU MEMBERS WILL MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT TO CONVINCE KOHL THAT AFOURTH PARTY STRATEGY OFFERS CDU AND CSU BEST PROSPECT OF COMING TO POWER.

6. IN CONGEN'S VIEW, OPPOSITION WITHIN CSU TO FOURTH PARTY MOVEMENT ALA KREUTH HAS NOT REPEAT DIMINSHED. IF, HOWEVER, STRAUSS SHOULD SOMEHOW SUCCEED IN HAVING STRATEGY COMMISSION AGREE THAT A FOURTH PARTY OPTION, IN SOME LIMITED FORM, COULD BENEFIT "C" PARTIES, THIS INTRA-CSU OPPOSITION WOULD VIRTUALLY MELT AWAY.

7. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT CONSIDER IT PROBABLE THAT STRATEGY COMMISSION WOULD ENDORSE FOURTH PARTY IDEA.BETTS

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